



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL

*Achieving Excellence Together*



### **Dear Parents, Carers and our community,**

This term has truly shot by – we are already enjoying the lighter mornings and evenings. Henley School really shines in the summer when we can take advantage of our wonderful green space, and our students have this to look forward to when we return on the 13th of April to begin our summer term.

It was a delight to welcome staff, parents, students and our community for our PTFA quiz night on Friday the 13th of March. Our PTFA have already raised lots of money. Thank you to all involved for such a fun evening.

This term has also seen preparation for our school show, performances at the Shakespeare Schools Festival, our school choir being re-established, lots of sporting success – a ski trip and a trip to Berlin. In addition, we were delighted to launch our Year 9 options and our careers café. Employers from the community commented on the maturity and employability of our young people.

We are ending the term with an Easter Egg hunt to reward those with *eggcellent* attendance – which remains our biggest determining factor for success at Henley.

I wish you a restful Easter and look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday the 13th of April.

**Mr Roper**

**Associate Headteacher**

### **Year 11 Report**

I would like to say a huge well done to all of Year 11 for the maturity, focus and determination you have shown during recent assessments and coursework, including the Food examinations for those who completed them. Your continued effort across all subjects this term has been excellent, and it is clear that many of you are taking your preparation for the final exams seriously.

As we head into the break, I encourage you to take time to rest, recharge, and revise. Make sure to look after your wellbeing, get enough sleep and use your time wisely so that you

return refreshed and ready for the next stage. You now have just one full half term left as Henley-in-Arden students. Make it count. Stay focused, support one another, and keep believing in yourselves.

**Mr J Pittaway**

**Head of Year 11**

### **Year 10 Report**

Year 10 have had a relatively straightforward half term; however, they have remained busy organising their work experience placements. These must be submitted **as soon as possible**, and we encourage all students to ensure this is completed promptly.

Looking ahead, the **summer term** will bring a range of exciting opportunities for Year 10. These include applications for **prefect roles and wider student leadership positions**, as well as the prestigious roles of **Head Boy and Head Girl**. Students will also be preparing for their **summer mock examinations**, an important milestone as they move closer to their GCSE year.

As always, we encourage students to remember that success is not just about **what you want to be or do**, but also **who you want to be**. Character, effort and integrity matter just as much as outcomes.

**Miss Betts and Mr Parmar**

**Heads of year 10**

### **Year 9 Report**

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, it has been a busy time for our Year 9 students. A key focus has been the process of making their GCSE options choices, and as I write these are still taking place with the deadline Thursday 26th March at 4pm. It has been pleasing to see the thoughtful consideration students have given to their future pathways and the 88% attendance at options evening was further evidence of this.

Alongside this, students have benefited from a range of enriching experiences to guide their decision making. The Careers Café has been a particular highlight, giving students



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the opportunity to speak with professionals from a variety of industries and gain insight into different career journeys. In addition, a recent trip to Birmingham University was both inspiring and informative for a group of our scientists, helping students to start thinking about higher education and future aspirations.

**Miss S Campton**  
**Head of year 9**

### **Year 8 Report**

Is that the sound of the Easter Egg delivery creature of your choice (insert RABBIT, TORTOISE or SHARK) bringing chocolatey treats?? Is the sun finally making a showing - if yes, then Happy Easter. This closes the second Term of Year 8 and sets us up ready for the final term towards summer and the Year 9 Horizon!

Well done to the huge majority of the year group who continue to be an engaged, creative and a kind group of young people in Henley-in-Arden School. I am currently signing the 8Qual Certificates for Bronze, Silver and Gold level and these will soon be given out. The 8Qual is a criteria-based award that we will revisit after the Easter break with the prize given, raising from a certificate to a badge. Please do discuss the level your child has achieved with the criteria and let me know what you think of the 8Qual as an incentive alongside their academic reports.

If there is a headline for this term, and next it is Attendance. More and more studies and reviews are showing that missed time in school has huge impacts on progress. Can we all make this is our aim next Term and make sure we give the best chance for everyone to be in school, being cool, moving on and not at home (except on the weekends!)

Thank you as always for your support.

**Mr S Eagles**  
**Head of Year 8**

### **Year 7 Report**

Year 7 have come to the end of their second term at secondary school, and it has truly been another brilliant one. They have settled into Henley life with enthusiasm, maturity, and a real commitment to learning. Since September, they have earned an incredible 60,000 positive points, showing just how hard they have worked both in lessons and around the school. We were also delighted to celebrate their fantastic attendance with a movie afternoon, where every pupil could join in because of the consistent effort you have shown this term. It was wonderful to enjoy popcorn, treats, and time together as a year group.

As we look ahead to the next term, our focus will be on preparing for Year 8. This means making sure year 7 stay organised, complete high quality homework, take pride in well presented classwork, and continue to be punctual to school and every lesson. These positive habits will help year 7 to continue growing into excellent Henley learners who make thoughtful choices each day. Well done for everything you have achieved so far—keep up the brilliant effort, and we look forward to another successful term ahead.

**Mrs Grant**  
**Head of Year 7**

### **Music Tuition** Is available for

Piano   woodwind   guitar   violin  
drums   vocal

Please contact [slewis@henleyschool.com](mailto:slewis@henleyschool.com) for more information.

For any urgent safeguarding concerns where a child's welfare and safety is at risk, please email [safeguardingconcern@henleyschool.com](mailto:safeguardingconcern@henleyschool.com)



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## Performing Arts

### Drama

I must lead with a rave review for the Shakespeare Schools Festival production of Twelfth Night that was performed 17<sup>th</sup> March at the MAC in Birmingham.

The cast and Student Director, Year 11 Belle Gisbourne brought this challenging identity swap comedy to riotous life with Belle's decision to set the play in a skateboard park described by the adjudicator as a 'Masterstroke!' There was no doubt that with Belle's finger on the pulse of the plot and dialogue, and the cast's appetite for energy and quips, that this production was up there with Henley Acting's Finest!

A huge well done to all involved and thanks to parents for the support with learning lines and attending the production.

Year 11 will shortly be performing the world premiere of their plays from Component 3, devising work under the theme of Common Ground. This has been a pleasure to work on with two exciting and creative casts who have risen to this challenge in a manner that seems more like a Sixth Form group. Well done Year 11.

**Mr S. Eagles**

### Dance

Show Preparations:

We have been working hard on preparing for our upcoming performances. Force Dance Company are performing in the Great Big Dance Off on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March where we will be taking two pieces to perform, one for our KS3 dancers, a contemporary dance about struggle and support and the second a sassy mix of Dua Lipa songs. Photos to come in our next newsletter.

We have also been busy preparing for our April Showcase taking place in school on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April where we will have our BTEC dance classes perform; dance companies, solos and duets, our wonderful new choir and Rock School.

**Mrs L Monk**

### Careers Week

Over the course of careers week students have been involved in a range of activities to broaden their knowledge of careers available when they leave Henley School.

#### Coventry Skills Show

To start the week, we took a group of year 10 students to the Coventry Building Society Arena to participate in a Skills Show. Students were tasked to engage and talk to employers from a range of industries and feedback on what they would like to do in the future or the pathway they would like to take. There were over 100 employers to talk to and the students were excellent in their demeanour while participating in all activities.

#### Careers Cafe

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March we held our careers cafe for all year 9 students. We were extremely grateful for governors, parents and past students to hold a carousel activity to inform students of career pathways ahead of their option choices. It was lovely to see the conversations between our students and the representatives from different industries to help our year 9s pick their pathway through school.

#### Birmingham University Medical School Visit

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March we took a group of students to Birmingham University. After a short walk through the campus, students attended lectures from year 3 medical



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students and took part in a range of interactive activities. This was a fantastic opportunity to experience life at university and inspire them to push themselves to achieve their very best.

Applications

Work continues to support all year 11s with their applications for college, sixth form and apprenticeships and to help Year 10 students apply for their work experience placements.

**Mr C Brough**



Year 9 students on Birmingham University campus.



Inside a teaching room at the university.

**PQA** is a weekend performing arts Academy providing tuition for children and young people from 4-18 years. Students spend three hours with us, rotating through hour-long sessions in Comedy & Drama, Musical Theatre and Film & Television. Students are split into groups according to their age and are taught by specialist expert teachers.

**Sporting Achievement**

Arthur Jones yr10 has won the 2025/2026 **Order of Merit** at Ladbrook Park Golf Club as he topped the leader board after competing in eight competitions. He also won the Cutler Cup; the Aitchison Trophy; and the three clubs and a putter competition at Ladbrook Park Golf Club. Arthur was presented with the trophies at the Junior AGM on 6th March 2026. Arthur also helps with coaching other youngsters along with the Club Assistant Professional Chris Freeman.



Arthur receiving his trophies.



In action in Scotland

**Henley-in-Arden School  
Dates for your diary**

Easter break 1st-10th April.

School reopens Monday 13th April

Wednesday 15th April Dance Showcase  
6-7pm

Monday 20th April Yr 8 trip to Legoland

Monday 4th May school closed bank holiday

Thursday 7th May Yr10 parents evening  
4-7pm invite only.

25th-29th May Half term.



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### World Book Day Events

What a joyful day we had on World Book Day (Thursday 5th March). Many of the staff dressed up as a book character to bring some welcome smiles to the faces of staff and students alike. We had a fiercely competitive door decorating competition. The overall winner was Miss Gadd's form in F10.

We ran our toilet roll character competition again. The winners were exceptionally good. We also entered the National Reading Quiz. We came 9th in our regional heat which was a very good performance. The scores were very close.

We ended our WBD celebrations with a visit from author of The Bodyguard Series, Chris Bradford, for all of year 8 on Friday 13th March. He showed them some close protection techniques and different formations. He discussed how he underwent bodyguard training so that he can write authentically. To finish off he talked a little about his Young Samurai series and again how he trained in the art of the Samurai so that his writing would feel genuine. He even introduced us to his Samurai sword!



Miss Gadd with F10's winning door.



2nd

S1



3rd



The English Department. Mr Birling, Miss Haversham, Fagin, a minion, The Ghost of Christmas Future and Oliver Twist.

Pochahontas



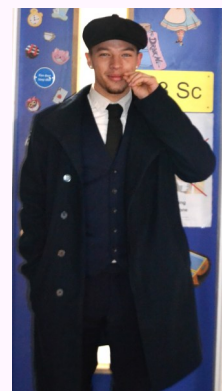
Chris showing us body-guard gadgets.

Some of his books.

All available in the library.



Peaky Blinders





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## Oompah Lumpah's take over

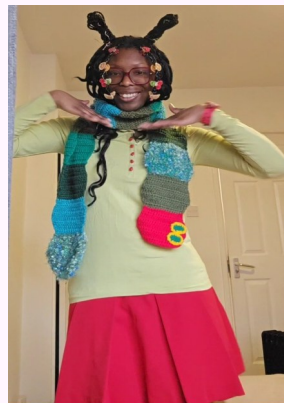


The Worst Witch

Spiderman



The Hungry Caterpillar



The

Queen of Hearts



## Donations

If anyone has any surplus toiletries or unwanted gifts, please can you consider donating them so that we can re-gift throughout the year on our kindness mission, or to support with our charity fundraising. Please send to **Miss Betts in Pastoral**.

## Uniform swap

As spring approaches we are sure that some of our young people have now outgrown their current uniform; we have a large stock of donated uniform that is available to swap for this outgrown uniform (where possible).

**Email [ebetts@henleyschool.com](mailto:ebetts@henleyschool.com) if you are interested.**

## Reporting an absence

If you need to report your child's absence please either send a message via Schoolcomms system or please call the school **attendance line on 01564 792364 option 1.**

## Attendance

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of good attendance and to say how incredibly proud we are of all our students' efforts so far this year. Regular attendance makes a real difference to learning, progress and wellbeing, and it has been wonderful to see so many students committed to being in school every day. We hope those students involved, thoroughly enjoy their Easter Attendance Award egg hunt as a well-deserved celebration of their attendance and dedication.

Finally, we wish everyone a restful Easter break and look forward to welcoming students back on April 13th for what we hope will be a sunny and successful final term.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

### UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent [ie the parent with whom the child normally resides](#).

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

**The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation**

Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).

First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.**